

New Century Cadet Earns Spaatz Award

Written by Lt Col. Ronald Behm

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09/30/08 - Olathe, KS - Kansas Wing Cadet Col. Nathan F. Scalia of the New Century Composite Squadron (NCCS) was awarded the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) highest cadet award -- the General Carl A. Spaatz Award #1705.

The award was presented by Congress member Dennis Moore, Third District, Kansas, during the ceremony at the Olathe Kansas Army National Guard Armory. Other ranking persons participating in the presentation were Col. Regina Aye, CAP/KS Wing Commander, Lt.Col. Dominick Italiano, CAP/NCCS Commander and former Deputy Commander of Cadets, LtCol. John Marek, CAP and Major Roger Eaton, CAP.

Scalia has been active in the CAP cadet program since October 2002. He has trained in ground team search and rescue. Participated in CAP National Cadet Special Activities during summer breaks; National Blue Beret - Oshkosh, WI (2004), Cadet Officer School - Maxwell AFB, AL (2005), International Air Cadet Exchange - Hong Kong (2007), MO Wing Camp Crowder Encampment Commander (2008). Served as NCCS Cadet Squadron Commander.

Scalia, son of Michael and Sandra Scalia of Olathe, graduated from Olathe North High School and currently is attending Johnson County Community College. Future goal is to pursue a medical degree.

To qualify for the award, cadets must earn 16 achievements in the CAP cadet program over five years and complete a four part examination consisting of physical fitness, an essay, two comprehensive written exams. The award is named in honor of Carl "Tooey" Spaatz, the first Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. Since the awards inception in 1964, CAP has presented the Spaatz Award to just over 1,705 cadets. Statics report that only 5 out of 1,000 cadets joining CAP achieve the Spaatz Award. Scalia is the 13th Kansas Wing recipient.

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